

Robert D. Graham to William A. Graham

UNC

Charlotte, N.C.

April 19, 1866

I have come in today with (11) eleven bales of my cotton and find here a letter from Col. Wm. Lamb, Genl Agent, Norfolk, Va. "Whole cargo for 'E[p]hesus' is not yet engaged.¹ Cotton shipped now will be in time for 1st May, but would prefer it to be shipped as soon as possible, etc.

If you ship directly to me, I will charge you no forwarding commission on your first shipment & will consign your cotton to Messrs Fraser Trenholm & Co., Liverpool and make a cash advance on it here. . . . You have only to ship your cotton consigned to me and it will come directly thro'. I will advance freight [*sic*] and tax, and steamers freight is paid in Liverpool.

Have advised all my friends who have cotton to send to send it to Liverpool instead N.Y.; in the former place it commands a higher price than any other market in the world, and is said for specie; besides English houses charge only actual expenses in addition to their commission. In N.Y. cotton is up and down every day, is sold for a varying currency, and you are literally robbed from the time your cotton is landed on the pier until your account is balanced. William Lamb."

Such is Lamb's letter nearly in full. My wagon has not come in up to this hour, 6 p.m. I shall change the mark "Rowland & Bro's" to "Col. Wm Lamb. . . ."

I find yr letter here to Willie. The river has been very high and detained my horse on the other side till this morning. Willie sent Reel off Monday morning to So. Ca. He has not got to Charlotte.

One of my wagons has just come in, so I will not be able to leave town tonight as the marks are to be put on. . . .

Having no [illegible] over 350 lbs. I only know that all my bales except one weighed over that. You will observe that Lamb says "I will advance freight and tax." So I send *all* my cotton their [*sic*] without paying anything here and write him a letter to leave by same mail with this. You had better telegraph me right away who to ship yours to. I will ask Lamb whether he will also ship yours without "forwarding commission" as he offers to do mine, which I think on your lot will be an item of between \$200 and \$300.00.